

BOARD BRIEF

Date: March 1, 2019
For ACTION _____
For INFORMATION X____
Board Agenda: Yes ___
No X___

FROM: Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Update on ACPS Principals' Meetings for the 2018-2019 School Year

BACKGROUND

In building a culture wherein school leaders have more choice in personalizing their professional learning, we have redesigned the monthly principals' meetings. With much feedback from the school leaders, the monthly principals' meetings were redesigned to accommodate their specific learning goals. As part of the change, the meetings are no longer separate nor held on different days, but instead have been combined, full day, and held at Braddock. The monthly meetings include two standing items: Equity and Superintendent Updates. The equity conversations replaced the former end of the school day meetings that were held last year.

PRIORITIZING PROCESS

A year long calendar of proposed meeting topics was determined by first asking the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) to identify possible topics by each office area: Accountability, Curriculum and Instruction, Finance, Human Resources, Operations, Specialized Instruction, and Superintendent. Then, the school leaders were given an opportunity to prioritize the topics using a color scheme: blue (first), green (second), and red (third). From that process, we discussed the results and agreed upon the blue (first) meeting topics for the school year. There was also an agreement to occasionally add topics due to timing, seeking feedback, or urgency. The designated principal leader facilitates the monthly agenda review and approval, follows up with presenters, and troubleshoots areas of concern or need.

NORMS AND AGENDA TOPICS

The school leaders also established a set of norms to guide their meetings. Topics range widely from information, approval, and feedback as well as updates. The topics must be engaging, differentiated to meet the needs of adult learners, ensure collaboration, promote dialogue, and allow for reflection. School leaders are responsible for sharing the information with their respective school staff members. During these meetings, school leaders have an opportunity to learn and collaborate with their colleagues. For example, there is time for leaders to share and demonstrate a successful educational practice with the group. All materials associated with related topics are posted on the Canvas Instructional Management System for the school leaders to access.

CLIMATE AND SETTING

Breakfast and lunch are provided along with parking passes for the school leaders. Also, there are opportunities for the school leaders to engage in informal conversations with colleagues. The importance of providing school leaders choice in their professional learning cannot be overstated. Building a collegial climate including effective communication, open and honest feedback, and ongoing opportunities for professional learning and sharing is a best educational practice. The ultimate goal of the redesigned meetings is to ensure that school leaders are informed, continually learn, support each other, and share learning experiences with select school staff, as appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends the School Board review the information provided in the brief.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Principals' Meeting Agenda for Thursday, October 25, 2018
2. Principals' Meeting Agenda for Thursday, November 29, 2018
3. Principals' Meeting Agenda for Thursday, January 24, 2019
4. Principals' Meeting Agenda for Thursday, February 28, 2019

CONTACT

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